

REMARKS

In paragraphs 3-7 of the Action, claims 1-4, 14-16, 18 and 20-21 were rejected by the references. In paragraph 9 of the Action, claims 5 and 6 were allowed.

In studying the references, claims 1-4, 15-17 and 18-21 have been canceled, and claim 14 has been amended to depend from claim 5.

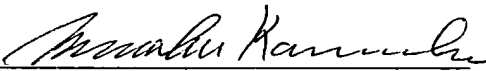
In reviewing claim 5, the transporting means must be disposed above the platen adjacent to the sheet feed stacker for transporting the original from the sheet feed stacker to a predetermined position on the platen, but as long as the transporting means has a transport belt for transporting the original, the vacuum means is not required for sucking the sheet toward the transport belt. In order to properly define and limit the invention in claim 5, the vacuum means in claim 5 has been deleted.

In the Action, it was stated that Ahern et al. discloses a document feeder with vacuum means. Since the vacuum means was known in the art, although the vacuum means is deleted from claim 5, it does not affect the patentability of claim 5.

It is believed that claim 5 now amended is still patentable over the references in the Action.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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